

*Sub P1*

maintaining a storage subsystem reflecting travel information for the enterprise, including requested travel plans and corresponding expense data.

*B*

21. The method of claim 20, wherein receiving a request to book a travel plan includes

providing access to a computerized reservation system.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein providing access to a computerized reservation system includes

booking at least a portion of the travel plan through the computerized reservation system.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein booking includes

sending a travel itinerary to the computerized reservation system, and receiving a response from the computerized reservation system including information reflecting availability of travel resources based on the travel itinerary.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising

repeating the sending and receiving steps until completing the portion of the travel plan.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein maintaining a storage subsystem includes

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modifying a database to reflect information corresponding to the received response.

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26. The method of claim 20, wherein determining whether the travel plan complies with the travel policies includes

comparing information in the travel plan with a set of travel rules associated with a requester.

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27. The method of claim 26, wherein comparing information in the travel plan includes

accessing the storage subsystem for the set of travel rules associated with the requester.

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28. The method of claim 27, wherein the set of travel rules associated with the requester includes travel rules for at least one of an individual, a group, and the enterprise.

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29. The method of claim 20, wherein receiving a request includes generating a modified travel plan when it is determined that the travel plan does not comply with the travel policies, and supplying the modified travel plan to the requester.

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30. The method of claim 29, wherein the generating step includes  
modifying the travel plan to comply with the travel policies by  
sending a travel itinerary reflecting changes to the received travel plan to  
a computerized reservation system, and  
receiving a response from the computerized reservation system including  
information reflecting availability of travel resources based on the travel itinerary.
31. The method of claim 20, further comprising  
generating a report including information corresponding to the travel plan,  
response, and expense data.
32. The method of claim 20, further comprising  
generating a set of reports reflecting travel information from the storage  
subsystem.
33. The method of claim 20, wherein receiving a request includes  
providing an application accessible to the requester for selecting the travel plan  
and booking the travel with a central reservation system.
34. The method of claim 20, wherein computing expense data includes at least one  
of  
generating an entry for an expense report,

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obtaining an authorization corresponding to the expense data, and  
generating a report at a point subsequent to receipt of the travel plan including  
information corresponding to the travel plan and actual expense data associated with  
the travel plan.

35. The method of claim 20, wherein the determining step includes  
locating any information corresponding to at least one of a vendor agreement,  
travel budget, and travel policy for the enterprise that is also relevant to the travel plan.

36. A system for managing travel of an enterprise, comprising  
a storage subsystem reflecting travel information for the enterprise, including  
requested travel plans and corresponding expense data;  
a memory having program instructions; and  
a processor operating in response to the program instructions to  
receive a request to book a travel plan,  
determine whether the travel plan complies with travel policies, and  
compute expense data corresponding to the travel plan.

37. The system of claim 36, wherein the processor is further configured to provide  
access to a computerized reservation system.

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38. The system of claim 37, wherein the processor is further configured to book at least a portion of the travel plan through the computerized reservation system.

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39. The system of claim 38, wherein the processor is further configured to send a travel itinerary to the computerized reservation system, and to receive a response from the computerized reservation system including information reflecting availability of travel resources based on the travel itinerary.

40. The system of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured to modify a database to reflect information corresponding to the received response.

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41. The system of claim 36, wherein the processor is further configured to compare information in the travel plan with a set of travel rules associated with a requester.

42. The system of claim 41, wherein the processor is further configured to access the storage subsystem for the set of travel rules associated with the requester.

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43. The system of claim 42, wherein the set of travel rules associated with the requester includes travel rules for at least one of an individual, a group, and the enterprise.

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44. The system of claim 36, wherein the processor is further configured to generate a modified travel plan when it is determined that the travel plan does not comply with the travel policies, and to supply the modified travel plan to the requester.

45. The system of claim 36, wherein the processor is further configured to generate a report including information corresponding to the travel plan, response, and expense data.

46. The system of claim 36, wherein the processor is further configured to generate a set of reports reflecting travel information from the storage subsystem.

47. The system of claim 36, wherein the processor is further configured to provide an application accessible to the requester for selecting the travel plan and booking the travel plan with a central reservation system.

48. A computer program product having a computer readable medium, the computer readable medium having instructions for performing a method for managing travel for an enterprise, the method comprising:

receiving a request to book a travel plan;

determining whether the travel plan complies with travel policies;

computing expense data corresponding to the travel plan; and

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maintaining a storage subsystem reflecting travel information for the enterprise, including requested travel plans and corresponding expense data.

49. A method of managing a travel system, comprising the steps of  
storing travel information corresponding to travel itineraries and associated expense data, and travel policy data in a storage subsystem;  
arranging travel itineraries for users in a planning subsystem;  
generating reports corresponding to the travel information in a reporting subsystem; and  
linking the reporting subsystem and the planning subsystem via the storage subsystem.

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50. The method of claim 49, wherein the arranging step includes  
booking a travel itinerary with an external facility with information on travel resources, and  
determining that any booked travel itinerary complies with travel policies through policy compliance analysis.

51. The method of claim 50, wherein the arranging step further includes  
notifying each user booking a travel itinerary of results of the policy compliance analysis.

52. The method of claim 51, wherein the notifying step includes sending the results of the policy compliance analysis via an electronic communication subsystem.

53. The method of claim 51, wherein the determining step includes authorizing a travel itinerary.

54. The method of claim 51, wherein the determining step includes rejecting a travel itinerary.

55. The method of claim 49, wherein the generating step includes a standard report, the standard report including each travel itinerary, associated expense data, and associated information reflecting compliance with the travel policy data.

56. The method of claim 49, wherein the generating step includes a status report, the status report including information from the storage subsystem and stored travel resource contract data.

57. A travel system, comprising  
a storage subsystem linking a planning subsystem and a reporting subsystem,  
the storage subsystem reflecting travel information corresponding to travel itineraries and associated expense data, and travel policy data;

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the planning subsystem configured to arranged travel itineraries for users; and  
the reporting subsystem configured to generate reports corresponding to the  
travel information.

58. The travel system of claim 57, wherein the travel planning subsystem includes  
a booking component configured to book a travel itinerary with an external facility  
with information on travel resources, and

a policy compliance analysis component configured to ensure that any booked  
travel itinerary complies with stored travel policies.

59. The travel system of claim 58, wherein the travel planning subsystem further  
includes

a notification component configured to notify each user booking a travel itinerary  
of results of a policy compliance analysis.

60. The travel system of claim 59, wherein the notification component includes  
an electronic communication subsystem for sending the results of a policy  
compliance analysis.

61. The travel system of claim 59, wherein the policy compliance analysis  
component includes a tool for authorizing a travel itinerary.

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62. The travel system of claim 57, wherein the reporting subsystem includes a component configured to access the storage subsystem to generate a standard report, the standard report including each travel itinerary, associated expense data, and associated information reflecting compliance with the travel policy data.

63. The travel system of claim 57, wherein the reporting subsystem includes a component configured to access the storage subsystem to generate a status report, the status report including information from the storage subsystem and stored travel resource contract data.

64. A computer program product having a computer readable medium, the computer readable medium having instructions for performing a method for managing travel for an enterprise, the method comprising:

storing travel information corresponding to travel itineraries and associated expense data, and travel policy data in a storage subsystem;

arranging travel itineraries for users in a planning subsystem;

generating reports corresponding to the travel information in a reporting subsystem; and

linking the planning subsystem and the reporting subsystem via the storage subsystem.

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65. A method of managing travel for an enterprise via an external source of information on travel resources, comprising:

linking in a database, a planning subsystem, a management subsystem, and a reporting subsystem, said database including travel data associated with travelers of the enterprise, enterprise policy data, and preference data associated with each traveler,

wherein steps performed using the planning subsystem include

receiving requests from the travelers to book travel plans,

accessing the external source to determine whether there are available travel resources for each request based on preference data associated with the traveler,

booking a travel plan with the external source based on a result of the determination for each request,

determining whether each booked travel plan complies with the enterprise policy data, and

updating the travel data in the database to reflect each booked travel plan and whether it has been authorized;

steps performed using the management subsystem include

accessing the external source for information corresponding to booked travel plans in the database, and

updating the travel data in the database to reflect the information from the external source and related expense information; and

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steps performed using the reporting subsystem include

updating the database to reflect enterprise-wide travel information, and  
generating reports corresponding to the travel data.

Sub C4

66. An enterprise travel management system communicably linked to an external source of information on travel resources, comprising

a database linking in a database a planning subsystem, a management subsystem, and a reporting subsystem, said database including travel data associated with travelers of the enterprise, enterprise policy data, and preference data associated with each traveler,

wherein the planning subsystem has at least one component configured to

receive requests from the travelers to book travel plans,

access the external source to determine whether there are available travel resources for each request based on preference data associated with the traveler,

book a travel plan with the external source based on a result of the determination for each request,

determine whether each booked travel plan complies with the enterprise policy data, and

update the travel data in the database to reflect each booked travel plan and whether it has been authorized;

the management subsystem has at least one component configured to

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access the external source for information corresponding to booked travel plans in the database, and

update the travel data in the database to reflect the information from the external source and related expense information; and

the reporting subsystem has at least one component configured to

update the database to reflect enterprise-wide travel information, and generate reports corresponding to the travel data.

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67. A method of managing travel for an enterprise using an accessible external source of information on travel resources, comprising the steps of

storing travel data associated with travelers of the enterprise, enterprise policy data, and preference data associated with each traveler;

receiving requests from the travelers to book travel plans;

determining whether there are available travel resources for each request based on preference data associated with the traveler;

booking a travel plan based on a result of the determination for each request;

determining whether each booked travel plan complies with the enterprise policy data; and

updating the travel data to reflect each booked travel plan and related expense information.

68. The method of claim 67, further comprising

generating reports corresponding to the travel data.

69. The method of claim 67, wherein the updating step includes reflecting enterprise-wide travel information in the database.

70. A system for managing travel of an enterprise using an accessible external source of information on travel resources, comprising

- a storing component configured to store travel data associated with travelers of the enterprise, enterprise policy data, and preference data associated with each traveler;
- a receiving component configured to receive requests from the travelers to book travel plans;
- a determining component configured to determine whether there are available travel resources for each request based on preference data associated with the traveler;
- a booking component configured to book a travel plan based on a result of the determination for each request;
- a determining component configured to determine whether each booked travel plan complies with the enterprise policy data; and
- an updating component configured to update the travel data to reflect each booked travel plan and related expense information.

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71. The system of claim 70, further comprising  
a generating component configured to generate reports corresponding to the  
travel data.

72. The system of claim 70, wherein the updating component includes  
a reflecting component configured to reflect enterprise-wide travel information in  
the database.

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A method for managing travel for an enterprise, comprising:  
receiving a request to book a travel plan;  
determining whether the travel plan complies with travel management criteria;  
computing expense data corresponding to the travel plan; and  
integrating the travel plan and the expense data into a storage subsystem having  
travel information for the enterprise.

sub C1

74. The method of claim 73, wherein the determining step includes  
reviewing at least one of travel policies for the enterprise, travel preferences for  
the requester, and a travel arrangement between the enterprise at a travel vendor  
associated with the request.